

southern birds that talk well may be hand-reared, Mr. Mathew confirmed that fledglings taken at the nest do, in fact, learn to talk quite proficiently.

During the ornithological survey in Orissa in 1950, I learnt that the right to collect Pahari Myna nestlings was auctioned along with other forest rights, and at a royalty of 4 annas (=25 nP.) per bird brought the State an annual income of about Rs. 3000. This, along with nestlings destroyed or unaccounted for in the process of collecting, represents an enormous drain, the effect of which calls for serious consideration.

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BANDRA,
BOMBAY 50,
June 6, 1963.

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7. OCCURRENCE OF THE VERDITER FLYCATCHER,
MUSCICAPA THALASSINA THALASSINA SWAINSON
(PASSERIFORMES : MUSCICAPIDAE) IN KATHIAWAR
PENINSULA

The Verditer Flycatcher (*Muscicapa thalassina thalassina* Swainson) is so far not recorded from the peninsula of Kathiawar, although it is known to over-winter in the greater part of northern and peninsular India. Dharmakumarsinhji (1954, BIRDS OF SAURASHTRA : 429) lists the bird as not recorded from Saurashtra, but occurring in the mainland of Gujarat. Therefore, it was of interest to notice the occurrence of this bird in the Gir forest of Saurashtra which I had occasion to visit during November-December 1962. Three specimens of this bird were seen on 10 December 1962 at Chhodawadi in the Jamwala Range, on the forest track leading to Jasadhar, about $\frac{1}{2}$ kilometre from the Forest Rest House. The area was light forest adjacent to hillside where the undergrowth was burnt out, probably to facilitate timber operations. The birds were darting about among the denuded branches of the trees (*Salmalia malabarica*) on the forest roads and making short sallies after insects. Baker (1924, FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA, BIRDS 2 : 239-240) speaks of the bird as very sociable and often to be seen moving about in pairs. The birds seen by me seemed to be moving about alone. They are said to be not common in Gujarat; this seems to be the case here also, as they were not seen again in a stay of approximately a month.

One specimen, a male, was collected.

I am thankful to Dr. B. Biswas of the Zoological Survey of India for kindly confirming the findings.

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
INDIAN MUSEUM,
CALCUTTA 13,
April 15, 1963.

G. U. KURUP

[Sálim Ali in 'The Birds of Gujarat', *Journal* Vol. 52 : 747, gives the status of this species as: 'Winter visitor. Sporadic solos, or separated pairs, amongst groves of leafy trees near villages, and in wooded compounds, etc.'. We have with us an unpublished manuscript, dated October 1950 and received in the Society's office in the same month, by Y. S. Shivraj Kumar wherein the species is recorded from Jasdan, Saurashtra, in winter.—Eds.]

8. ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF BIRDS EATING THE FRUIT OF YELLOW OLEANDER (*THEVETIA NERIIFOLIA*)

Some time ago, I recorded in this *Journal* (56 : 639) that Redvented Bulbuls (*Molpastes cafer*) and Whitebrowed Bulbuls (*Pycnonotus luteolus*) feed on the fleshy mesocarp of the fruit of the Yellow Oleander (*Thevetia neriifolia*). I referred therein to notes by other authors recording the same habit in the Koel (*Eudynamys scolopacea*), the Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*), and the Common Grey Hornbill (*Tockus birostris*).

During the latter half of last year my wife and I observed Brahminy Mynas (*Sturnus pagodarum*) and Redwhiskered Bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) in our compound eating this fruit. Brahminy Mynas are local migrants on this campus arriving by about September and departing by about March, whereas Redwhiskered Bulbuls are residents. Usually the Brahminy Mynas feed in company with the Common Mynas and Hoopoes in the grass lawns of this estate. Occasionally they take to eating this fruit, but always the over-ripe ones fallen on the ground. We have noted them sometimes eating the mesocarp of even the stale or the dark and dried fruit. When disturbed, they fly off but come back soon to resume eating, each bird thereby finishing almost a complete fruit.

We suspect the Crow-Pheasant (*Centropus sinensis*) to have this habit but have seen only one instance of such feeding. We have only